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PATENT D-7211(1156)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

:

Lawrence E. Bodkin, Sr.

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Serial No.: 09/496467

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Group Art Unit: 3672

Filed: 02/02/2000

:

Examiner: J. Hawkins Gay

For: BUOYANCY DEVICES USING CONFORMAL CAVITIES

AMENDMENTHonorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JAN 08 2002

GROUP 3600

Sir:

Pursuant to Office Action dated 9/24/01, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-10 and 15-18 as per attached clean-copy and marked-up versions.

## REMARKS

1. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 15 and 18 have been amended to more distinctly define the applicant's invention. Claim 6 has been deleted. Claims 9, 10, 16 and 17 have been amended to avoid the Examiners objections under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form and all are furnished in both marked-up and clean form herewith. Claims 11-14 and 19 were previously deleted as per marked-up claims copy filed July 12, 2001.

2-3. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to eliminate the basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Describing the body as having a shaping that is preexistent in claims 9, 10 and 16 is believed to be to be a further limitation of the subject matter in the claims to which they are made dependent. Such subject matter in the base claim does not limit the characteristic of origin in the body, which could be either preexistent or made concurrently with the cavity. These dependent claims limit body origination by claiming it as preexistent.

The Examiner's suggestion for correction of claim 16, states that line 1 recites "a preexisting body". This stated wording of the claim is the wording of the claim prior to the amendment filed 12 July 2001. The Examiner makes reference to the amendment of this filing date in item 8 on page 6 of the Office Action.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231, on Oct. 24, 2001.

Arthur D. Yeager